

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on December 28, 2006.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Final Office Action mailed December 28, 2006, Claims 32-33, and 35-56 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 32, 33 and 35 were allowed. New corrected Drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) were required. Claims 36-40 and 45-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,797) in view of Boothby (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,990) and further in view of Kaufman (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,621).

II. Applicant's Amendment

The present Response cancels Claims 36-56, adds new Claims 57-63, and includes a set of new corrected formal Drawings. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Drawings

In the Final Office Action mailed December 28, 2006, new corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) were required because the drawings filed on June 7, 1999 were informal. The present Response hereby includes a set of new corrected and formal drawings sheets. Applicant respectfully submits that the new set of drawings is now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d).

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In the Office Action mailed December 28, 2006, Claims 36-40 and 45-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,797), in view of Boothby (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,990) and further in view of Kaufman (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,621). The present Response hereby cancels Claims 36-40 and 45-56 thereby rendering any rejection moot as to those claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

V. New Dependent Claims

Claims 32, 33 and 35 are currently allowed. The present Response hereby adds new dependent Claims 57-63. No new matter has been added. All new Claims 57-63 are dependent upon Claim 32 which has been allowed and thus the new dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 32. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims are now in condition for allowance and an appropriate notice and issue fee is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable, and the appropriate notice of allowance and issue fee notice is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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